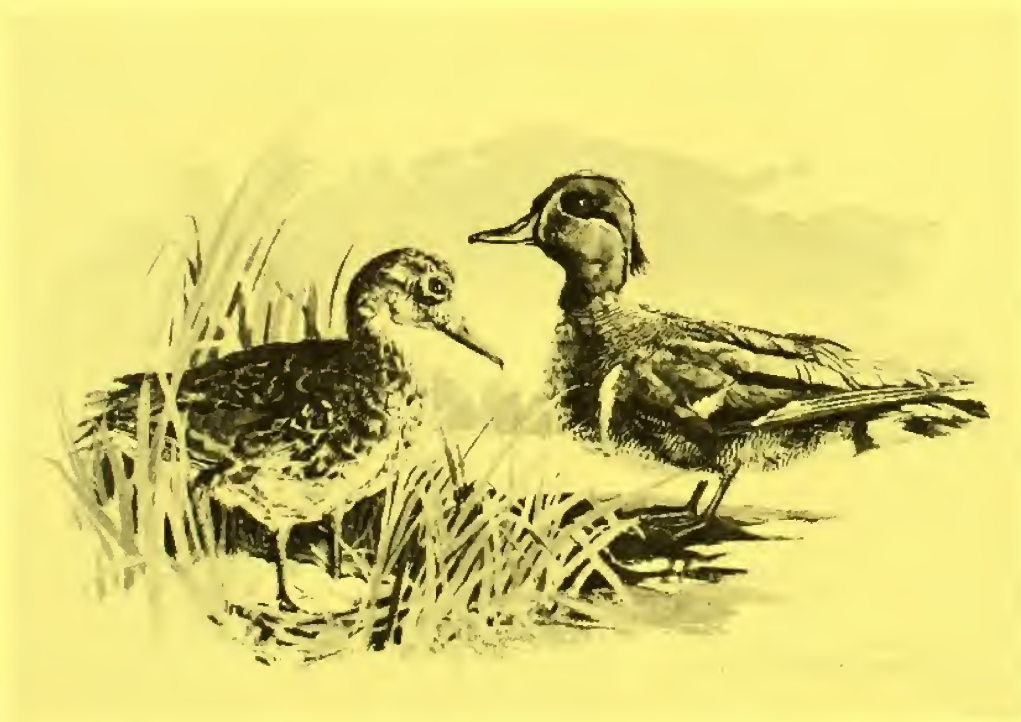


IOWA BIRD LIFE



Vol. XLVIII No. 2

June, 1978

Published by the

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

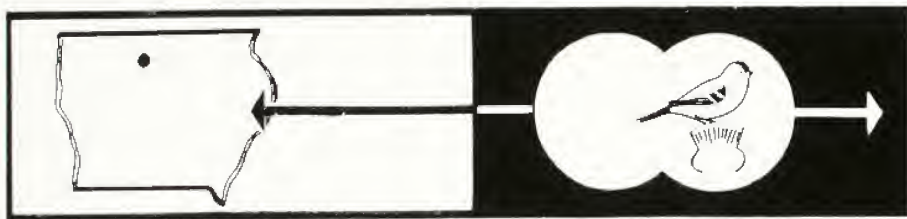
Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$6.00 a year, single copies \$1.50. Subscriptions to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are six classes as follows: Life Member, \$100.00, payable in four equal installments; Contributing Member, \$15.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$10.00 a year; Family Member, \$12.00 a year; Regular Member, \$6.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$3.00 a year.

 EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE

235 McCLELLAN BLVD.
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

Published quarterly by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union at 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803. Second class postage paid at Davenport, Iowa. Subscription \$6.00, single copies \$1.50.



O'Brien, Clay, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet and Palo Alto Counties

GENE BURNS
JAMAICA, IOWA

On Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, 1978, my wife and I drove to 42 birding areas in the above mentioned counties. We were able to account for 70 species during our various stops. We found certain areas to be very good for birding and my comments about them will be listed following the names of these areas. The weather was rather windy with some clouds and not exactly the best for a good birding day.

I especially recommend the area around Sutherland to the northeast as the best of our entire trip, however the west edge of Lost Island Lake was exceptionally good also. There we saw the terns diving into the lake for their food. A Great Egret near the Ocheyedan Pit Area was a nice surprise also, as was the Common Loon at Scharnberg Park near Everly.

There are undoubtedly many more fine birding areas in each county that we did not find and with a little extra driving we probably could have been able to locate several more. All in all, we found our trip to these six counties a rewarding experience for birding.

O'Brien

1. **Mill Creek State Park**, 124 acres, all facilities, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of Paulina. This area has the lake under redevelopment because of a bad silt problem. Completion date will be in 1979 or 1980. When this project is finished, the silt will be controlled by a flood gate and will be kept out of the lake. This is a good birding area now and should be much better when this lake construction project is completed.

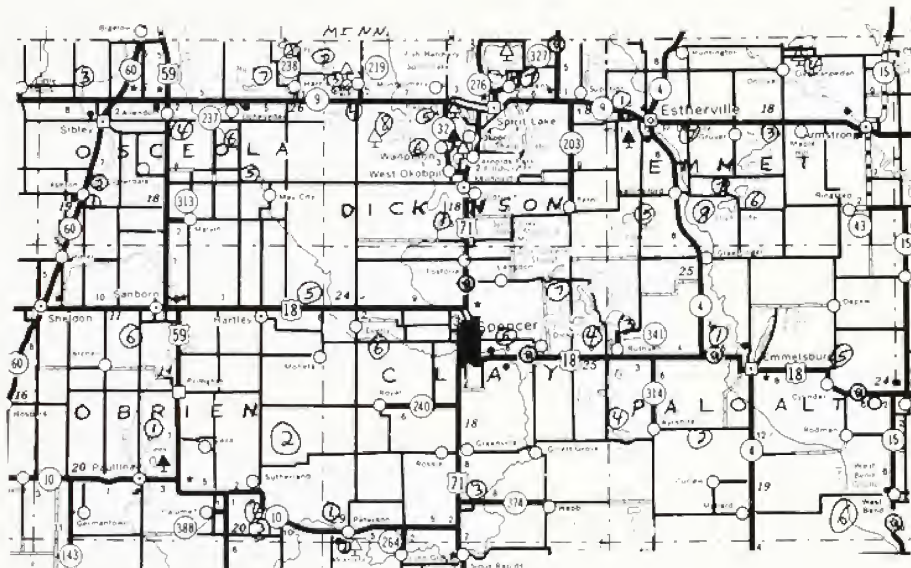
2. **Litka Park**, 4 acres, toilets and picnicking, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Sutherland, a fine birding area with many trees and thickets. The entire area northeast of Sutherland is a fine birding area as there are many good country roads with trees and thickets right up to the side of the roadway. I certainly recommended this entire area for a good days birding. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in abundance, thrushes and various warblers.

3. **Dog Creek Park**, 110 acres, 3 miles southeast of Sutherland, all facilities. Good sized lake with a pair of nesting Kestrels observed here, also Spotted Sandpiper, and many Black Terns. As the trees and thickets in this area increase in size, this should become a good birding area.

4. **Negus Recreation Area**, 2 miles south of Sutherland, 17 acres, small lake, no facilities. Black Terns and other shore birds seen here.

5. **Bruegman Area**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Hartley, 20 acres, toilets and picnicking plus small lake.

6. **Donna Park**, 3 miles southwest of Sanborn, 21 acres, all facilities and a small lake. Should make a good birding area as the trees and thickets increase in size.



Clay

1. **Riversize Little Sioux Access**, 1 mile west of Peterson, 3 acres, toilets, picnicking and a stream.

2. **Wanata State Park**, south edge of Peterson, toilets and picnicking, primitive. A good birding area.

3. **Kindlespire Park**, 5 miles west of Webb, 160 acres, camping and a stream. Another good birding area.

3. **Kindlespire Park**, 5 miles west of Webb, 160 acres, camping and a stream. Another good birding area.

4. **West edge of Lost Island Lake**, a very excellent birding area. Many ducks, terns, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, plus many other species.

5. **Oneota Little Sioux Access**, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Spencer just off highway 18, 153 acres. A very good birding area, Yellow Warblers, Bay-breasted Warblers, plus many swallows.

6. **Scharnberg Park**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Everly, an old gravel pit area. A good birding area with a Common Loon observed.

7. **Northwest of Lost Island**, including several locations. The following areas were checked and all are good birding areas: Mud Lake, Deweys Pasture, Smith Slough, Trumbull Lake and Dan Greene Slough. Many Yellow-headed Blackbirds, ducks, gulls and terns, plus many other species.

Osceola

1. **Ashton Park**, southeast corner of Ashton with all facilities.
2. **Ashton Pits area**, northeast corner of Ashton, 33 acres, lake and camping.
3. **Peters Pit Area**, 4 miles west and 5 miles north of Sibley, 19 acres and a lake. A good birding area with Red-tailed Hawk, various sparrows, many swallows, including a colony of Bank Swallows.
4. **Johnson Wilderness Area**, 1 mile southeast of Allendorf, 6 acres, no facilities.
5. **May City Pit Area**, 2 miles northwest of May City, 6 acres, all facilities.
6. **Ocheyedan Pit Area**, 2 miles south of Ocheyedan, 18 acres, all facilities. Good birding area with Great Egret.
7. **Rush Lake**, 1 mile east of Ocheyedan, Canada Geese and Gulls.
8. **Iowa Lake**, 4 miles north of Harris, very good area, many Gulls and Black Terns.

Dickinson

1. **Horseshoe Bend**, 3½ miles southwest of Milford, 180 acres, stream. Very good timbered area, excellent for birding.
2. **Trappers Bay**, east edge of Lake Park, good area.
3. **Silver Lake**, southeast edge of Lake Park, 1056 acres, large lake. A good birding area.
4. **Pikes Point State Park**, 2 miles southwest of Spirit Lake.
6. **Gull Point State Park**, southwest edge of West Okoboji. A very fine birding area.
7. **Spirit Lake, East Okoboji and West Okoboji Lakes**, many good birding areas around the shore line.
8. **Cayler Prairie**, a native prairie area northwest of Wahpeton.

Emmet

1. **Four Mile Lake**, 3 miles west of Estherville.
2. **Grass Lake**, 3 miles east of Eastherville.
3. **West Swan Lake**, 2 miles east of Gruver.
4. **Tuttle Lake**, 4 miles northeast of Dolliver, a good birding area.
5. **Twelve Mile Lake**, 5 miles southwest of Wallingford.
6. **Ingham Lake**, 5 miles east of Wallingford, 1364 acres, a good area with Canada Geese, rails and many Yellow-headed Blackbirds.
7. **Wolden Recreation Area**, just west of Ingham Lake.
8. **High Lake**, just southwest of Ingham Lake.

Palo Alto

1. **Basswood Recreation Area**, 1 mile northwest of Emmetsburg on the Des Moines River. A very good birding area with Wood Ducks, thrushes and warblers.
2. **Lockwood Bridge Wildlife Area**, 7 miles southwest of Emmetsburg.
3. **Lost Island Huston Park**, 3 miles north of Ruthven, 74 acres with all facilities.
4. **Salton Park**, 3½ miles west of Ayrshire, 15 acres with a lake.
5. **Sportsman Park**, 2½ miles north of Cylinder, 41 acres including a lake.
6. **Wildlife Area No. 1**, 5 miles southwest of West Bend, along the Des Moines river, a very good area.

CONVENTION



The fifty-sixth annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union convened in Sioux City, Iowa on May 5, 6 and 7, 1978. The host groups were the Sioux City Bird Club and Sioux City Audubon Chapter. There was an informal reception in Jones Hall of Science, Morningside College on Friday evening, May 5th. Otto Fisk of Sioux City presented an interesting selection of slides.

The Saturday meeting began when Alden J. Erskine, President of the Sioux City Bird Club, introduced Dr. Thomas S. Thompson, President of Morningside College. Dr. Thompson welcomed the I.O.U. the Morningside campus and hoped that we would have a good meeting. I.O.U. President, George Crossley of Dubuque, responded to Dr. Thompson's welcome and accepted the hospitality of Sioux City for the sixth time in the history of I. O. U. annual conventions. He thanked the Sioux City Bird Club, the Sioux City Audubon Club and Dr. Thompson for their hospitality.

Vice president, Carl Kurtz of St. Anthony, called the groups attention to the collection of stuffed birds in the hallway display cases and to the displays of books, photographs and I. O. U. materials placed there. He announced that the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union was holding their annual meeting on May 19-21 at Ordway Prairie west of Aberdeen in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Kurtz introduced Neil Heiser of Onawa, a wildlife management biologist with the Iowa Conservation Commission, who presented a very interesting and informative paper illustrated with slides titled "From the Missouri River to the Loess Hills". He discussed the two major land forms of Western Iowa and the ecology problems that threaten these areas. He explained graphically the effect of bank stabilization navigation on the Missouri River and the degradation it has caused in the last 15 years. He explained the formation of the loess hills and how the once open prairie found on the hills has become largely timbered. He ended his talk with a excellent picture of a covey of quail circled for the night.

Mark Hanfield of Salix, a park officer of the Woodbury County Conservation Board, presented an illustrated talk entitled "Birds and Wildlife of Snyder's Bend". He had excellent pictures of Bald Eagles, owls, other birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. It was very interesting and entertaining.

Ed Fortner of Sioux City followed with an illustrated talk about biocoustics. Mr. Fortner is a biology teacher in Sioux City and is working on his doctor's degree. He deals with the Gray Catbird. He had slides of sonograms of a number of birds. He illustrated the mimicry of the catbird. His presentation was humorous as well as informative.

The afternoon session began with Peter C. Petersen, editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, who talked about the new checklist and about the need to document records for certain species. He noted that the names on the checklist are the American Birding Association names. He also discussed the Iowa foray. The foray is a means of learning more about birds, habitats, flora and fauna for less studied parts of the state. Ross Silcock of Malvern mentioned that he was trying to do a foray again in the area done last year. The Fremont county foray organized by Ross would be just

for birds. The Iowa foray for 1978 will be in Allamakee County on June 2 through 7th. This is the northeast corner of Iowa. Darwin Koenig said that this foray would cover the most rugged and heavily wooded part of the state. He said there is the possibility of 10-11 species of nesting warblers as well as many other nesting birds. Mr. Petersen said that only the summary of birds would be printed in IBL this year.

Mr. Petersen also discussed the rare bird alert. Weir Nelson, chairman of the hot line committee is unable to do the organization and wants another person to chair the committee. Mr. Petersen said that the hot line would be patterned after Illinois hot line. There will be two key people in two key spots in the state. Once the information was well verified it would be radiated to the people involved in the hot line. The expense would be shared by the people involved. Fifteen to twenty people at the session indicated that they would like to be involved in the hot line.

Steve Duecker of Danbury, followed this discussion with a very interesting illustrated talk on "Birds of Prey of Northwest Iowa". Steve is a falconer and works with Dean Roosa in a study banding Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels and Loggerhead Shrikes. Steve said there were twenty active Redtail nests around Oto, Iowa.

Following Steve, Larry Farmer of Westfield reviewed the Sunday morning field trips for the group. The field trips would include the Loess Hills area, the Brown's Lake area, the Stone Park area and an area to the northwest along the Big Sioux River.

Dr. Morgan Webb gave the group directions to the Commons building. This talk was extemporaneous, hilarious and much appreciated.

President Crossley convened the business meeting. Peter C. Petersen moved that reading the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with as they were printed in IBL. Woodward Brown seconded the motion and it carried. Ruth Buckles of Des Moines read the treasurer's report and noted a decrease in the ending balance. Carl Kurtz moved that the treasurer's report be approved as read. Judge Ayres seconded the motion and it carried. The auditing committee reported the books were in excellent condition.

Peter Petersen, editor of IBL, gave his report. He discussed what inflation has done to publishing costs and that the large issues in 1977 had not kept a very high percentage of the 200 new members gained in 1977. He said he had reasonable copy and could cut the size of the magazine for the next two issues to help the budget. He said the group would have to make a decision at the next annual meeting if the bird finding series was to be made into a book. The series would be finished in '79. It was mentioned in the discussion following this report that possibly Gladys Black could mention in her newspaper articles that the IOU needs continued support.

President Crossley named Marlys Huff of Marshalltown, Jim Gritton of Des Moines and Mrs. Evelyn Hanna of Sioux City to the resolutions committee. He said that the nominations committee would give their report Sunday. He asked Darlene Ayres if she would continue as publicity chairman and she said she would.

There was no old business.

President Crossley then called for new business. He said that we need an invitation for the fall meeting. He said that the group has been invited to Waterloo for the May '79 meeting. Carl Kurtz invited the group to Ames for the fall meeting.

The financial situation was discussed. Peter Petersen moved that the I.O.U. dues be raised from \$5 to \$6 for single memberships, from \$8 to \$12 for family memberships and from \$2 to \$3 for junior memberships to begin in 1979. Carl Kurtz seconded the motion and it carried.

President Crossley told the group that he presented a statement about the

Mourning Dove at the State House.

Mr. Ed Crocker of Storm Lake suggested that a committee should be formed to look into the possibility of a scholarship for teachers to study birds so they they could teach about birds. Carl Kurtz moved that a committee be formed to study this idea of a scholarship for teachers to study ecology or ornithology to be funded partly from the treasury, donations of members and others. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Ross Silcock brought up when dues notices should be sent out. It was determined that members who don't renew now get 5 issues for the price of 4 and this was getting to be too expensive. The first and second dues notices should be in the September and December IBLs and the treasurer would not send out notices. This would save postage as well as time for the treasurer and would insure that the non-renewing members would get just four issues instead of five. A motion to the above was made, seconded and carried. Carl Kurtz moved adjournment.

Following the banquet meal at the Commons on the Morningside Campus, President Crossley thanked the host groups for the excellent programs of the day. He introduced the head table and then asked for new members to stand: Mr. and Mrs. Burdell Triplett of Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Heine of Spencer and Barbara Wilson from Hastings. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crocker from Storm Lake were attending their first I. O. U. Convention. President Crossley announced honors that have been bestowed on I. O. U. members this year. Mr. Crocker was inducted into the Conservation Hall of Fame by the Iowa Wildlife Society, Gladys Black of Pleasantville was given the Iowa Academy of Science award of merit and Simpson College will award an honorary Doctor of Science to her on May 13th. Darlene Ayres of Ottumwa was given an honorary award for excellence in teaching by the Iowa Academy of Science.

The speaker of the evening was Bob De Loss of Sioux City. Mr De Loss is a teacher and a film-lecturer on the Audubon circuit. He showed the group one reel of his film on the Galapagos Islands. Mr. DeLoss had visited the islands on two occasions.

The morning dawned gray, cold and rainy. Undaunted the group dispersed on the various field trips.

The noon meal was at the Izaak Walton Club House at Brown's Lake. Following the meal, the business meeting was reconvened. Marlys Huff read the report of the resolutions committee.

Be it resolved by the 56th annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in Sioux City, Iowa, May 5, 6 and 7, 1978 that we, the members, give thanks to the Sioux City Bird Club and the Sioux City Audubon Society Chapter for hosting this spring meeting. In particular we wish to thank the officers and the Executive Council and our editor for their work in behalf of our organization.

Be it further resolved that our thanks be given to:

1. Mr. Alden Erskine, President of the Sioux City Bird Club, Mr. Larry Farmer, President of the Sioux City Chapter of Audubon, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Nicholson, and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Benne, who were responsible for making the local arrangements.

2. Dr. Thomas Thompson, President of Morningside College and member of the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce for welcoming our club to the city and the campus. Dr. Morgan Webb for his "Intricate Chalk Talk" and assistance.

3. Mr. Otto Flick for the Friday night program; Neil Heiser, Mark Hainfield, Ed Fortner, and Steve Duecker, for Saturday's programs; Dr. and Mrs. Harrell for the book exhibit; Willis Hall for the bird print display.

4. Saturday night banquet decorations by Inez Kirkpatrick and Nada Fisk; and

Bob DeLoss, our guest speaker.

5. Sunday field trip leaders: Bob Nicholson, Alden Erskine, Carolyn Benne, and Larry Farmer, and to the Izaak Walton League for the use of their facilities. Marlyns Huff moved that the resolutions be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Herb Dorow of Newton read the slate of officers: president, George E. Crossley; vice president, Carl Kurtz; secretary, Mary Lou Petersen; treasurer, Ruth Buckles; executive council, Dorothy A. Brunner, Richard D. Mooney, Larry K. Farmer, Dr. W. Ross Silcock. Mrs. Dwight Brooke moved that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Woodward Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

Peter C. Petersen moved that Mary Lou Petersen represent the I. O. U. at the 17th International Ornithological Congress in Berlin. Herb Dorow seconded the motion and the motion carried. Judge Charles Ayres was asked to compile the bird count, 109 species were seen. President Crossley reminded the group of the fall meeting in Ames on September 23 and 24, 1978. Dick Mooney moved adjournment.

Bird List -- Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Common Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, European Starling, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Species seen Saturday, May 6, only: Whip-poor-will and Great Crested Flycatcher.

ATTENDANCE

Cherokee: Dick Bierman

Danbury: Steve Duecker.

Davenport: Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen.

Decorah: Darwin Koenig.

Des Moines: Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward H. Brown, Mrs. Ruth Buckles, Nancy Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. James Gritton, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mooney, Ray and Mark Rouw.

Dubuque: Mr. and Mrs. George E. Crossley.
 Hamburg: Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs.
 Hastings: Barbara Wilson.
 Hinton: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Williams.
 Holstein: Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lohff.
 Jamaica: Mr. and Mrs. Gene Burns.
 Malvern: W. Ross Silcock.
 Marshalltown: Mrs. Marlys Huff, Mrs. Carol McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage.
 Muscatine: Allan C. Hahn.
 Newton: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dorow.
 Onawa: Neil Heiser.
 Oskaloosa: Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton.
 Ottumwa: Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Johnson.
 Pocahontas: Raymond Cummins.
 St. Anthony: Carl Kurtz.
 St. Lucas: Joe Schaufenbuel.
 Salix: Mark Hanfield.
 Sioux City: Jeanne Bates, Lawrence and Carolyn Benne, Sam Dunkle, Mr. and Mrs. Alden J. Erskin, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Fish, Ed Fortner, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Charles Henchal, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. George Marsh, Louise McGrail, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Nicholson, Gertrude Weaver, Dr. Morgan Webb, Walter Webb.
 Spencer: Mr. and Mrs. Russell Heine, Mr. and Mrs. Burdell Triplett.
 Storm Lake: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crocker.
 Waterloo: Mr. and Mrs. Lowell A. Miller.
 Westfield: Larry Farmer.
 Vermillion, South Dakota: Dr. and Mrs. Byron Harrell.
 Yankton, South Dakota: Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our recent Annual Convention at Sioux City on May 5-7, 1978 was an unqualified success and all thanks must be given to the Sioux City Bird Club and Sioux City Audubon Chapter for the program and all other deluxe arrangements. With the re-election of all officers, I pledge that we will attempt to lead the organization through an even more successful year.

This past year we were confronted with a few Statewide issues which we trust will be concluded favorably. One of these was the attempt to impose an open season on Mourning Doves; this battle was waged by some of our more active members including Gladys Black, and again for the third or fourth time the matter has been repulsed. We also seem to have made other progress with the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Our publication *Iowa Bird Life* has been presenting some unusually interesting articles on bird populations, field reports, birding areas, the first Iowa foray, and the Iowa bird checklist. We would welcome further research articles on birds of Iowa and the Midwest to continue to maintain the high reputation of this magazine within our budget and to attract new members and hold our present ones.

I wish to thank all members for their interest and loyalty, and ask that each of you be a one-man (or one-woman) public relations department to spread the word about the I. O. U. Thank you. -- George E. Crossley.

BANDING REPORT**Iowa Bird Banding Summary for 1977**

KEITH & IRENE LAYTON
P. O. Box 124
OSKALOOSA

During 1977 we were joined by new banders James J. Dinsmore of Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, and by Rollin E. (Gene) and Marilyn Burns of Jamaica, Iowa. A hearty welcome to you! James banded 3 Forester's Terns. We don't find them listed as far back as our records go, 1962. Is this a first for Iowa? Burns joined us late in the season, too late for much activity, but we understand they are givin' 'em fits in '78.

A number of sub-permittess were mentioned this year by Iowa banders. Mary Felsing is sub. to Ann Johnson. Daen Roosa had two subs, Jim Bednarz, (Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks), and Steve Duecker, (Red-tailed Hawks and Am. Kestrels). The Ayres have two subs., Joan Schooley and Blossom Halberg, and Peter Petersen's subs are Walter Zuurdeeg and Dr. Tom Rennie. There may be others that we are not aware of, if so will be glad to give recognition, let us know.

Our "only one club" in 1977 was represented by 5 banders listing 13 species, only one each of which was banded in Iowa during 1977. Listed alphabetically, they are as follows:

CHARLES & DARLEEN AYRES -- Sora and Worm-eating Warbler.

FITZHUGH & HAZEL DIGGS -- N. Mockingbird and Western Meadowlark.

ANN JOHNSON -- Carolina Wren.

KEITH & IRENE LAYTON -- Cerulean Warbler, Solitary Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Sandpiper.

PETER C. PETERSEN -- Cooper's Hawk, Yellow-breasted Chat, Rock Dove, Common Redpoll and Cape May Warbler.

We trust the above is correct, it is so easy to make errors in this tabulation. We apologize for our mistakes in the 1976 report, especially that we credited Mrs. DeLong with the banding of 49 Rusty Blackbirds that were banded by the Diggs. Prior to that we gave Diggs Orchard Orioles to someone else! Must be our trifocals, or something. Again, we are sorry, we sure don't aim to make these errors. Please let us know in the future, we will hasten to make correctons.

Genevieve DeLong reports a Common Yellowthroat that she banded Sept. 30, 1975 returned to her in July 1976 and again in May 1977. Good records. We banded a Worm-eating Warbler in July '75 and re-netted it in July '77 in same area. Let's all contribute one interesting return for next year's summary.

There were too many interesting comparisons in this year's reports to attempt to point out in this short article. Make sure that you get your copy of our "IOWA BANDING NEWS", now being prepared for printing. Read and compare the banding results of all Iowa banders during 1977. It is interesting.

Following is a list of the Iowa bird banders who reported their 1977 results to us, and the number of species and individual birds banded.

Bander		Species	Individuals
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa		99	1,911
Gladys Black, Pleasantville		19	86
Mr. & Mrs. Rollin E. Burns, Jamaica		7	15
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Lamoni		62	932
Mr. & Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg		95	2,422
James J. Dinsmore, Ames		4	109
Iowa Conservation Commission		5	2,920
Ann Johnson, Norwalk		49	491
Mr. & Mrs. Keith D. Layton, Oskaloosa		108	2,716
Dean Mosman, Elkhart		45	560
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport		110	3,893
Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah		49	745
Dean Roosa, Des Moines		5	72
Marie Spears, Shenandoah		42	214
Betty Walters, Essex		54	218
Totals		160	17,304

Species	No.	Species	No.
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	24
Green Heron	2	Belted Kingfisher	2
Black-crowned Night Heron	100	Common Flicker	68
Canada Goose	749	Red-bellied Woodpecker	30
Wood Duck	1,246	Red-headed Woodpecker	40
Green-winged Teal	28	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21
Mallard	677	Hairy Woodpecker	20
Blue-winged Teal	223	Downy Woodpecker	180
Sharp-shinned Hawk	32	Eastern Kingbird	29
Cooper's Hawk	1	Great Crested Flycatcher	60
Red-tailed Hawk	55	Eastern Phoebe	41
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	69
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Acadian Flycatcher	16
American Kestrel	48	Willow Flycatcher	78
Common Bobwhite	2	Least Flycatcher	123
Sora	1	Eastern Pewee	55
Semipalmated Plover	2	Olive-sided Flycatcher	4
Killdeer	5	Tree Swallow	2
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Bank Swallow	95
Am. Woodcock	6	Rough-winged Swallow	9
Common Snipe	2	Barn Swallow	101
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	Cliff Swallow	206
Forster's Tern	3	Purple Martin	159
Black Tern	4	Blue Jay	355
Rock Dove	1	American Crow	4
Mourning Dove	28	Carolina Chickadee	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	24	Black-capped Chickadee	346
Black-billed Cuckoo	10	Tufted Titmouse	103
Barn Owl	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	73
Common Screech Owl	10	Red-breasted Nuthatch	21
Saw-whet Owl	7	Brown Creeper	53
Whip-poor-will	12	House Wren	417
Common Nighthawk	6	Winter Wren	11
Chimney Swift	2	Carolina Wren	1
		Northern Mockingbird	1

Gray Catbird	590	Common Yellowthroat	108
Brown Thrasher	216	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
American Robin	474	Hooded Warbler	4
Wood Thrush	41	Wilson's Warbler	36
Hermit Thrush	113	Canada Warbler	60
Swainson's Thrush	300	Am. Redstart	80
Gray-cheeked Thrush	71	House Sparrow	14
Veery	46	Bobolink	3
Eastern Bluebird	84	Eastern Meadowlark	6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5	Western Meadowlark	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	33	Yellow-headed Blackbird	14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	307	Red-winged Blackbird	152
Cedar Waxwing	62	Orchard Oriole	14
European Starling	34	Northern Oriole	118
White-eyed Vireo	2	Rusty Blackbird	2
Bell's Vireo	2	Common Grackle	291
Yellow-throated Vireo	12	Brown-headed Cowbird	86
Solitary Vireo	68	Scarlet Tanager	12
Red-eyed Vireo	210	Summer Tanager	5
Philadelphia Vireo	28	Northern Cardinal	309
Warbling Vireo	37	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	177
Black-and-white Warbler	74	Indigo Bunting	195
Worm-eating Warbler	1	Dickcissel	28
Golden-winged Warbler	6	Evening Grosbeak	6
Blue-winged Warbler	9	Purple Finch	800
Tennessee Warbler	133	Common Redpoll	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	86	Pine Siskin	42
Nashville Warbler	172	American Goldfinch	1,943
Northern Parula Warbler	6	Rufous-sided Towhee	19
Yellow Warbler	21	Grasshopper Sparrow	5
Magnolia Warbler	74	Vesper Sparrow	5
Cape May Warbler	1	Lark Sparrow	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	178	Northern Junco	1,179
Black-thr. Green Warbler	11	Am. Tree Sparrow	90
Blackburnian Warbler	17	Chipping Sparrow	104
Cerulean Warbler	1	Field Sparrow	129
Chestnut-sided Warbler	84	Harris' Sparrow	197
Bay-breasted Warbler	38	White-crowned Sparrow	25
Blackpoll Warbler	16	White-throated Sparrow	448
Palm Warbler	46	Fox Sparrow	92
Ovenbird	161	Lincoln's Sparrow	158
Northern Waterthrush	76	Swamp Sparrow	54
Louisiana Waterthrush	3	Song Sparrow	173
Kentucky Warbler	16		
Connecticut Warbler	3		
Mourning Warbler	21		
		Total species	160
		Total individuals	17,304

Field Reports

spring 1978

The species marked with *are on the National Audubon Blue List (Am. Birds 31:1087, 1977), the Iowa Blue List (I.B.L. 45: 95, 1975), and-or on Dean Roosa's list of endangered, threatened or declining species in Iowa (I.B.L. 46:40, 1976).

General comments. March was a continuation of the winter, with a major snowstorm just before Easter. April was warmer than average, although it didn't feel so with the excess rain, which established an unwelcome pattern of spoiling weekends. This carried into May, very un-springlike until after the 10th, when several days of warm wind from the south were followed by a huge cold front with rain and high winds. The end of May felt more like premature summer. Delayed migration of waterfowl reflected the cold weather early in the season, as did lingering of winter species (including some spectacular ones). Shorebirds were conspicuously sparse in their expected haunts along the edges of large bodies of water (which lacked mudflats), but appeared in good variety at sewage lagoons and puddles left in the fields by the April rains. Some passerines were on schedule, but many birds usually common by early May were still absent on the 10th, and the front that hit eastern Iowa on the 13th and 14th caused an incredible fallout of thrushes and warblers. Whereas some contributors complained about a lackluster season, readers of this synopsis will be more impressed by the wealth of unusual observations.

Abbreviations used: L. lake; M - marsh; NWR - national wildlife refuge; S.P. - state park.

Some late winter reports of interest. This section deals with observations made before March 1 but reported after the deadline for the preparation of the winter summary. A *Cooper's Hawk was seen on December 28 (JSt). A dark-phase Ferruginous Hawk, with an all-white tail but an atypical white throat patch, was photographed in early February at De Soto Bend NWR (NHe). A Golden Eagle seen on February 19 e. of the Amana Colonies was documented in considerable detail (MN,RD). A *Peregrine Falcon at De Soto Bend NWR on February 24 was described (WD). Documentation of the *Merlin observed on February 7 (see winter report) was provided (BB). Great Horned Owls using hawks' nests are commonplace, but Douglas Harr found one incubating 2 eggs in the nest of a Canada Goose on February 26 (fide GBl). Nine sightings of Snowy Owls in the course of the winter were reported to Gladys Black, all but one from the w.-n.w. part of the state. Documentation of a Varied Thrush seen at Long Grove from January 2 to February 17 was submitted (PF). Eight Bohemian Waxwings (in a flock of 65 Cedars) were seen on February 4 at Winterset (fide GBl). A young male Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a feeder in Council Bluffs on February 26, and was convincingly described (JG). When the Pine Grosbeaks reported to Gladys Black are added to those that previously had come to our attention, the number of birds seen this winter in Iowa rises above 60 (seen in 9 counties). Yet another Hoary Redpoll was documented and also photographed (Cherokee, February 22-23, MB). A measure of the magnitude of the Com. Redpoll invasion is the belief (GBl) that they reached all 99 counties; Petersen banded 169 out of an estimated 275-300 around his house. Only one Red Crossbill was seen, on December 5 in Waterloo, but 21 White-winged Crossbills, observed mostly in the early part of winter, should be added to those commented on in the winter report (fide GBl) (this species occurred in 13 counties).

Loons through Ibises. Single Com. Loons were reported from widely scattered locations. They occurred mostly in April, with an individual in nuptial plumage staying into early May near Iowa City (many observers). Details about a Red-throated Loon observed on April 15 at L. Manawa (EC) have not yet been received. More Horned Grebes were seen than in an average year, some of the higher numbers recorded being 10 on Cedar L., March 20 (FT), 22 in n.e. Iowa, April 8-22 (JSc), and a maximum of 40 on Little Wall L., April 19 (ISU). There was an apparent eastward shift in the migration of Eared Grebes, usually rare in the east and uncommon in the west: 8 on Amana L., May 6 (MN et al.), 6-7 on Goose L.,

Clinton Co., on May 13 (PP), and 5 in n.e. Iowa on May 12 (JSc) being remarkable numbers for the e. part of the state; 12 at Forneys L. from May 12 on (with evidence for breeding sought, RS) and as many as 56 on Storm L. (May 13, MB) are an indication of their heavy migration through the west. A W. Grebe was observed on May 14 at Marble Rock (PK). *Am. White Pelicans also moved through the w. half of the state in large numbers, with some of the high counts reported being 100 at Hamburg, April 18 (IG) and 300 on May 6 over L. Manawa (TB). The e. limit of their occurrence was at Red Rock (135 in mid-April, GB1) and Saylorville (7 on May 6, WB). It is a pleasure to be able to report high counts for *Double-crested Cormorants: e.g., 8 at Ingham L., April 3 (TN), 18 at Coralville, April 20 (NHa), 17 at Cone M., April 30 (TSh et al), 50 on the Des Moines River s. of Boone, May 9 (ISU), 113 at Riverton on April 28 (RS), about 300 on Lizard L., Gilmore City, April 13 (RC), 50 at George Wyth S.P., Waterloo (TSt,TStJr), May 9, 300 on a borrow pit along I-29 on April 19 (IG), and a maximum of 400 on L. Manawa in early April (EC). An immature at Coralville on May 17 (NHa) was rather late. In contrast, only small flocks of Great Blue Herons were recorded, 8 on April 8 in Allamakee Co. (JB) and 12 at Sabula on April 1 (PP) being tops. Dean Roosa found 4 nests in s. Winneshiek Co. (JSc). Little was said about Green Herons, but it is discouraging to have none on territory in the Iowa City vicinity. There were 3 sightings of Little Blue Herons: an adult at Cone M., April 16 (MN et al.), one at Virgin L., Palo Alto Co., May 11 (TN), and an adult by the Little Sioux River, May 13 (DB). Cattle Egret sightings have reached the point where they can no longer be reported in detail. Over 60 individuals were seen this spring, from the Mississippi to the Missouri, but most commonly in the s.-central parts of the state, with flocks of 7 near Des Moines, April 16 (AJ) and n. of Promise City, May 29 (CS), 12 in n.e. Polk Co. (ND), and a maximum of 16 at Red Rock on April 14 (GB1). In contrast, very few Great Egrets were seen: scattered singles, with 2 at Springville, April 12 (FT) and 6 from April 9 on in Allamakee Co. (JB). A Snowy Egret at L. Manawa, on April 23, was described in detail (LB), including a puzzling mention of his black feet. One was also seen near Randolph, Fremont Co., on May 16 (RS). The *Black-crowned Night Heron is another problem species that made a good showing: it was widely distributed, and some of the higher counts were 9 at Sweet M., May 1 (JSc), 5 at Rush L., May 9 (DB), and a maximum of 12 s. of Missouri Valley (RGo). The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a marginal species for Iowa, was seen mostly along the Mississippi: one in the yard on April 15 (GC), and 8 individuals (including a nesting pair at Sny Magill, Clayton Co., May 7) n. from the Wapsipinicon River to the Minnesota border, April 14-May 30 (JB). Several were also seen away from the river in Benton Co. (JB,JD). Small numbers of Least Bitterns were encountered in suitable habitat, but 10 at Cardinal M., May 20 (TSt). A species causing concern, the *Am. Bittern, was reported by numerous correspondents, with 6 in n.e. counties (April 29 - May 18, JSc) balanced by 6 in the s.w. (April 23 - May 23, RS); it was judged "fairly common" in the n.w. Great Lakes region, where the hope for a comeback was voiced (TN). Eleven *Plegadis* ibises were reported. No attempt was made to identify the species for that seen on April 18 s. of Russell, s.-central Iowa (CS). Those who saw 6 dark ibises at Sweet M., April 26-29 (Larry Farmer, JSc) leaned towards Glossy; 4 birds seen near Churdan, Greene Co. (April 21, DT) were believed to be White-faced, but the description did not include diagnostic field marks. *Plegadis* ibises observed in spring under favorable viewing conditions should be recognizable as to species (see H. Douglas Pratt, *Birding* 8:1, 1976).

Swans through Ducks. A Mute Swan over the Mississippi n. of Muscatine was seen on March 11 (TK,TSh). The only report of Whistling Swans referred to 10 observed at Nashua on April 10 (JSc). Great White-fronted Geese peaked at about 500 on March 31 - April 1 (both at Riverton, RS, and Mud L., Clay Co., TN). The

only e. record was 14 at Cone M., March 26 (TSh). These were an estimated 750,000 Snow Geese at Forneys L. on March 26, and 3 were still present at the end of the period (RS). Forty-five Gadwalls at Cone M. on April 16 (MN) were unusual. A Cinnamon Teal was seen near Randolph May 12-13, and a Cinnamon x Blue-winged hybrid at Forneys L. on May 20 (RS). High counts for *Canvasbacks were 250 at Lock 9 along the Mississippi (March 25, JSc) and 200 in the southwest (April 1, RS); a pair in Pottawattamie Co. on May 13 was late (JG). There were these records of Greater Scaups: one on the Mississippi, near Princeton (March 19, TK, NHa), at least 4, with hundreds of Lesser Scaups, at the Coralville Reservoir (April 20, NHa), and one on April 7 at Little Wall L. (Mark Ryan fide JD). An Oldsquaw was seen at Cone M. on April 9 (MN et al.). One-hundred Ruddy Ducks at Riverton on March 28 was a good count (RS). All three mergansers were widely seen, with concentrations of 28 Red-breasted in a gravel pit s. of Iowa City on April 16 (MN) and 51 on L. Manawa on April 21 (JG).

Diurnal Raptors. The Mississippi Kite has been extirpated from Iowa since 1890. But it breeds again in s. Illinois, and has been recently seen in c. Illinois, Wisconsin and s. Minnesota, so its reappearance in Iowa was not entirely surprising. On May 29, Tom Stone, Jr., 13, informed me over the telephone that he and 7 others had observed a white-headed, black-tailed kite at Cardinal M., near Cresco in n. Iowa. The description was supported by written documentation. There were 25-30 Turkey Vultures in a roost at Elk Rock (GB1), and a nest was observed in Mills Co. May 13-20 (JG). *Sharp-shinned Hawks were widely seen, with 32 counted in the northwest between March 31 and May 4 (JSc), and 12 banded April 2 - May 4 (PP). There were more reports of *Cooper's Hawks than in past years: one at Muskrat Slough, May 6 (TK,TSh,NHa), one in Cherokee Co., April 2 (DB), another at Riverton, April 1 (RS), 3 at Sweet M., April 8 (TSt Jr), and 4 in Allamakee Co., April 8 - May 13 (JB). The only *Red-shouldered Hawk away from the Mississippi was one seen at Sweet M. on May 29 (JSc); an immature was encountered near Muscatine on March 31 (TK,TSt), and Jim Bednarz, who is working on this species, found 5 nests in n.e. Iowa and 5 additional individuals between March 29 and May 6. He is very pessimistic about the chances of survival of this Buteo in the state. No large kettles of *Broad-winged Hawks were apparently observed, but the migration through n.e. Iowa, in late April, was considered good (JB). *Swainson's Hawks made a lot of news this spring. Three nests were found, 2 on April 25 (n. of Cherokee, DB; Fayette Co., JSc), and one on April 29 in Hardin Co., with 3 eggs by May 26 (JB). Five migrants were seen in n.e. counties, April 2-22 (JSc), 4 at Sweet M., April 8, 3 at Hartman's Reserve, April 22 (TSt,TSt Jr), 3 n. of Cherokee, April 18 (DB), and 2 in Fremont Co. April 15 and 20, as well as on the late date of May 13 in Mills Co. (RS). A flock following a disc harrow in Polk Co. on April 24 (GA) and picking up rodents dislodged by the blades duplicated an incident related by Bent, as pointed out by Woody Brown. Rough-legged Hawks lingered into late March (RC,PK,HZ,LZ). An immature Golden Eagle seen on March 26 n. of Waukon was documented (JSc). The peak count of Bald Eagles at Red Rock was 15 in March (GB1); some were still along the Mississippi in n.e. Iowa in mid-April (JB). The migration of *N. Harriers was poor compared with last year's at Sioux Center (JV) and in the Iowa City area (NHa); it was rated fairly good from March 20 on at Cherokee (DB) and going from good in April to poor in May in the Great Lakes region (TN). *Ospreys, no more than 5 seen by any observer, occurred all over the state in April, and as late as May 13 (JG); the total count for the state was at least 26 birds. Documentation was received for a *Prairie Falcon seen on May 1 at the ISU beef farm (PH), and for a Peregrine Falcon at Sweet M. on April 16 (JSc) as well as one in Waterloo, May 11 (TSt Jr); no particulars as to time and place were provided concerning a

female seen feasting on a Flicker (DMs). Details about a *Merlin observed at Ames on March 20 (EJ) were reported, and have been promised for another seen on March 19 in Fremont Co. (RS); none are available for a third bird found at Weld L. on April 4 (DH). Once again, reports about *Am. Kestrels are contradictory: common in late March s. of Iowa City (12 counted on a round trip to Wapello, TK,NHa), "very abundant" during the same period in the Cherokee area (DB,M-B), "very common" in April in the Great Lakes region (TN), but "rare" in May, "regular" at Pine Hill Cemetery but "scarce" elsewhere (PP), up from 1977 (DMs), but "few and far between" in the west (JG). Two nests were found near Cherokee (DB) and one s.e. of Marion (FT).

Quails through Sandpipers. The few comments received indicate that Com. Bobwhites may be reduced in numbers, but the Ring-necked Pheasant population is healthy. Gray Partridges continue to do well in the northwest (RC,DB), and appeared for the first time in n.e. Iowa on May 30 (at St. Lucas, JSc) - these may have wandered down from Minnesota. Wild Turkeys are becoming common (flocks up to 40) in s.w. Iowa in early spring (RS). Six Sandhill Cranes flew over I-29 on May 11 (IG). No *King Rails were reported. Virginia Rails were unusually conspicuous in the marshes of e. Iowa in the first half of May (Cone M., Muskrat Slough etc.) (TSh, PP, TK,NHa). Some 10 were flushed and blown around by high winds at Cone M. on May 13 (YSh,TK,NHa). Soras were downright abundant (about 25-30 at Cone M. on May 13) in the same places, and also in the Great Lakes region (TN). As described in a separate note (TK), Yellow Rails (2, maybe 3) were present at Cone M. April 30 - May 6. Because they were remarkably easy to flush and remained "staked out" for so long, several area birders got to see them well. Iowa's third Purple Gallinule, an injured bird found in Ames on May 22, is now a specimen in Dr. Dinsmore's freezer, and will no doubt wind up in the ISU museum. A Com. Gallinule was observed at Waterloo on May 2 (TSt, TSt Jr,RH). The only *Piping Plovers reported were 2 at De Soto Bend NWR on May 2 (RGo). As usual, Lesser Golden Plovers moved through in flocks (the largest consisting of 200 birds, May 14, near Oelwein TSt,TSt Jr, RH), and Black-bellied Plovers as widely scattered singles. Ruddy Turnstones occurred in several locations: 3 s. of Iowa City, May 17-19 (NHa et al.), one on May 17 at Little Wall L. (JD,ISU), another at Little Clear L., May 13 (RC), and one near Randolph, May 23 (RS). *Upland Sandpipers were seen in moderate numbers: 2 pairs on territory in Johnson Co. from April 23 on (TK et al.), 3 pairs near Seymour, since April 12 (CS), 1 in Dickinson Co., May 9 (DH), 1 at Sweet M., April 30, 4 at Hayden Prairie, May 20 (TSt,TSt Jr) and 6 near Ames, April 19 - May 22 (JD,ISU). Willets were observed by several people, mostly in small flocks (2 on May 16 at Little Wall L., ISU, 12 by the Coralville Reservoir, April 29 TK, 11 at Waterloo, April 24, TSt Jr, and 7 at Amana L., May 7, NHa,TSh). White-rumped Sandpipers were much in evidence, but nobody could rival the count of 1000+ obtained at Riverton on May 20 (RS). Baird's Sandpipers were much harder to find: one at Roger's Crossing, May 20 (FT), 3 at Princeton M., May 13 (PP), 7 at Ankeny Pond, May 14, and 13 at Tieg's M., May 13 (HZ). The high count for Long-billed Dowitchers was 60+ at Princeton M., May 13 (PP). Stilt Sandpipers occurred sporadically, with one each at Roger's Crossing, May 13 (FT), and Sweet M. May 14 (JSc), 3 each at Cherokee, May 8 (DB), s. of Iowa City, May 11 (NHa et al.) and Little Clear L., May 13 (RC), and up to 21 in Fremont Co., May 9 (RS). Two Western Sandpipers were seen at close range near Iowa City May 19-20 (NHa,TSh). No date was supplied for the 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers observed near Seymour (CS). The rare Marbled Godwit was seen n. of Missouri Valley (2 on April 10, 2 on May 15, RGo) and s. of Iowa City (3 on May 11, TK,TSh, one May 25-27, for a new late date, Carl Bendorf et al.). Reports of Hudsonian Godwits were unusually numerous: singles in n.w. Dickinson Co., May

8 (JSc), at Ankeny, May 14 (HZ), n. of Story City, May 11 (JD), at Cherokee, May 11 (DB), and s. of Iowa City, May 17 (NHa), 4 at L. Harmon, Worth Co., May 8 (JD), 3 s. of Iowa City, May 11 (TK, TSh), 9 at Alburnett Slough, May 11 (FT), and a high count of 12 in Fremont Co., May 12 (RS). Sanderlings, rare in the spring, were seen at Little Clear L., May 13 (3, RC) and in Fremont Co., peak count of 12 on May 14 (RS). The only Am. Avocets mentioned were 4 at Dan Green Slough, Clay Co., May 11 (TN). Wilson's Phalaropes were very common, as witnessed by such high counts as 75 in Fremont Co., May 11 (RS) and, on the same day, 250 at the Cherokee sewage lagoon (DB). Three N. Phalaropes were observed May 9 - 11 near Randolph (RS), and 2 at Sweet M. on April 30 (TSt Jr, RH).

Gulls through Flycatchers. The only significant note about Franklin's Gulls was the occurrence of 8 on April 15 in the extreme n.e. corner of the state (JSc). An unusually massive flight on Com. Terns (estimated 60-70 birds, PP) moved n. along the Mississippi on May 13. Two *Little Terns were over L. Manawa on April 22 (RGr). A newcomer to the Blue List, the *Black Tern, was widely encountered in large numbers (flocks over 100 birds being seen), in sharp contrast to its poor showing during the last 2 years. Let us hope this is not just a flash in the pan. The reports on *cuckoos, viewed together, don't indicate any further decline. A Long-eared Owl at St. Lucas May 18 - 19 was very late (JSc). The last date for *Short-eared Owl sightings is April 19, Seymour (CS). A Saw-whet Owl was in Burlington (dates?) (C & JF), and another from March 23 to 28 at Ledges S.P. (HZ, MG). Once again, very few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen -- none by the 19 observers reporting through Janet Greer. A Pileated Woodpecker is in residence on Credit Island (PP). Iowa observers must be pleased with the removal of the Red-headed Woodpecker from the Blue List: our population seems to be highly migratory but sturdy. An albino Downy Woodpecker seen in Mills Co., April 27, was described in detail (BW). E. Kingbirds seem less common around Iowa City than in past years. W. Kingbirds were common at Akron (EB), and 18 were seen by w. observers (JG). Two birds somewhat e. of the normal range (on May 11, one at Jewell, the other at the ISU beef farm) were documented (JD, PH). Little was written about the E. Phoebe: this impresses me as a bad sign. As usual, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were elusive in the field whereas 12 were banded May 18 - 24 (PP). Ten Acadians banded May 11 - 23 were considered a good count (PP), but none were on territory at Wildcat Den S.P., where they were very vocal in 1977. Empidonax migration was described as excellent in Sioux Center (JV). The Alder, believed to be a migrant through Iowa, was still at Decorah on May 31 (JSc). Olive-sided were few, or migrated across the state fast.

Swallows through Vireos. Cliff Swallows in Iowa are no longer blue-listed, in agreement with the consensus that they are doing well. Reports about *Purple Martins, from east to west, are also favorable. Lingering Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen on May 17 at Iowa City and May 19 at Davenport (PP). Winter Wrens were scarce, with one at Davenport April 1 - 15 (PP), another in the Amana Woods on May 6 (MN), and a third at Union Grove S.P., April 23 (TSt Jr, RH). There is an ominous silence from most quarters about Carolina Wrens. Only at some Iowa City residences have they been regular. It seems likely that 2 harsh winters in a row wiped out most of the population. A "good movement of Marsh and Sedge Wrens" on May 15 (PP) is the only positive comment about these species. As usual, single N. Mockingbirds were reported from around the state, with no obvious geographical pattern. One in the s.w. corner was welcomed as a rarity (RS). A Varied Thrush in Des Moines vanished before it could be seen by experienced birders (WB, DMo). Another, in Cedar Falls most of the winter, did not come to general attention until mid-March, when numerous observers from out

of town saw it (TSt, JSc, FT et al.). It was photographed, and last seen on April 5 (TSt Jr). After 2 years of shortage of migrant *Catharus* thrushes, it was a delight to find scores of them in a driving rain at Wildcat Den S.P. on May 13, with Veeries unusually common (TK, TSh, PP, NHa). All reports from the field and concerning the rate of occupancy of nesting boxes indicate that the newly-acquired Blue List status of the *E. Bluebird is, alas, fully deserved. The Townsend's Solitaire mentioned in the winter report (JSc) stayed until March 26. The paucity of Golden-crowned Kinglets continues: for examples, none were seen by 20 w. birders this spring. This species is as much a casualty of the rough winters that came back-to-back as the Carolina Wren. The only substantial number of Water Pipits seen was 15 at Roger's Crossing on May 2 (FT). A Sprague's Pipit observed at close range n.w. of Missouri Valley on April 11 was documented (RGo). Eight Bohemian Waxwing at Cherokee, seen until March 1, barely made it into the spring report (DB). The last of 3 N. Shrikes was seen n. of Waukon on March 25, and documented (JSc). As usual, *Loggerhead Shrikes were widely reported, but in small numbers, and common only in the southwest (RS). Nests were found at Red Rock, 2 of 3 active at the end of May (GB1), Fremont Co. (2, RS), and Lawler, Chickasaw Co., May 29 (one, JSc). If anything, this species seems to be losing ground in most of Iowa. White-eyed Vireos were back on territory at Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, for the fourth year in a row. One at Cherokee on May 11 (DB) was testing the limits of its range. Viewed collectively, the reports on *Bell's Vireo suggest that it is stable in suitable habitat. No systematic search seems to have taken place for *Warbling Vireos, a species added last year to the Blue List. Some w. observers (DB, JG) feel it has not declined. My personal impression is that it has in the Iowa City area.

Warblers through Blackbirds. In several parts of the state, warbler migration was late but great. Reporters from the northwest exulted over 13 species (DB, JV), "waves" in the southwest drew hallelujahs (RS), but, of course, things were best in the east. For example, 2 Iowa City birders (TK, NHa) each saw 34 species. Teamed up with Tom Shires, they recorded 27 on a horrible rainy day (May 13) at Wildcat Den S.P., Credit Island, and w. of Cone M. Credit Island, with warblers seeming to fall out of the clouds, was reminiscent of High Island, Texas! A somewhat extralimital nesting of the Prothonotary Warbler was observed in Brenton's Slough, Polk Co. (DMo). The Cedar Rapids Audubon group found an early Worm-eating Warbler at Cone M. (April 29), which stayed to be seen by several Iowa City birders the next day. One singing on May 27 in s.-central Green Co. (DMs) was clearly out of the normal range. The same holds for 2 Blue-winged Warblers singing in Ledges S.P. on May 29 (JD). There was apparently no dearth of *Yellow Warblers. In fact, Janet Greer, speaking for w. birders, called them abundant, and found the Blue List status of the species incomprehensible. Single Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen s. of Iowa City (May 6, TK, TSh, NHa) and, unexpectedly, in Mills Co. (May 13, TB). Cerulean Warblers are established at Wildcat Den S.P. and Palisades Kepler S.P. (TSh, FT et al.) Dr. Van Dyk points out that the Black burnian Warbler is not rare or even uncommon in his part of the state. The Yellow-throated Warbler, unquestionably rare, was seen in 2 places: Credit Island, May 13 (PP and Elton Fawks), and Ames, May 4 (GF) and 9 (EJ). Documentations were received for all these sightings. A singing Prairie Warbler was heard in a field next to Wildcat Den S.P. on May 28 (NHa). Territorial Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen and heard at Wildcat Den and Ledges S.P. (2 and 3, respectively, TK et al., JD). Kentucky Warblers are regular at the former location, and were therefore no surprise (May 12 on, TSh et al.); the 4 in Mills Co., May 13, were more unusual (RS). The rare Connecticut Warbler was seen in a number of places: one each on May 18 in Cedar Rapids (FT) and Iowa City (TK),

one on May 11 at Ames (ISU), and 2 in Fayette Co., May 18 and 21 (JSc). Mourning Warblers were reported from several locations across the state, in surprising numbers. Records of *Yellow-breasted Chats were few: one at Wildcat Den S.P., May 13, a migrant (TK et al.), and one in Cedar Rapids on May 24 (FT) believed a breeder. Two Hooded Warblers were banded, May 14 and 16 (PP), and one seen and heard at Wildcat Den S.P., May 12-13 (TK,TSh,NHa). Canada Warblers were unusually common in eastern Iowa (TSh et al.) and at Waterloo, May 12-20 (TSt,TSt Jr). There are not enough data to clarify the status of the *Am. Redstart, whose distribution seems very uneven. The abundance of suitable habitat has worked in favor of the Yellow-headed Blackbird: re-established at Muskrat Slough, continuing at Cone M. back at Ankeny Ponds (DMs), breeding colonies at Storm L., Rush L., Little Spirit L., Silver L. in the northwest (DB,TN), abundant at a marsh in Pocahontas Co. (RC) and in the southwest (RS), hundreds at Sweet M., and over 50 nests counted at Cardinal M. (TSt,TSt Jr). Orchard Orioles have drawn attention in the Iowa City area (5 singing males at the end of period, NHa), in the west, where first-year males were conspicuously common (JG), and at Des Moines (2 present), where they are usually rare (ND). Brewer's Blackbirds (2 on March 28, IG) are more to be expected in the southwest than at Sweet M., where 15 were recorded on April 25 (JSc).

Finches, Sparrows. A Lazuli Bunting was seen on May 14 in Waterloo (TSt Jr). This rare finding was supported by the necessary detailed written documentation. It was a surprise to see the *Dickcissel on the Blue List, but this spring they seem indeed less abundant than in the past (NHa,GBI,JG). The late date for Evening Grosbeaks was May 3 (CS,PK), and for Purple Finches May 15 (JSc). One of the winter's prize finds, a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch at the feeder of Mrs. Sharon Ladeburg in Oelwein (second state record, first seen in 1883), fortunately stayed into the second half of March, for it was not publicized until Mrs. Ladeburg overcame her diffidence and wrote to Gladys Black. The bird was then seen by many birders from all over the state, and repeatedly photographed. A Hoary Redpoll near Iowa City, March 10, was documented (TK). Com. Redpolls lingered until late March at Red Rock (GBI) and Iowa City (TSh), and were last seen on May 1 at Cherokee (DB). Pine Siskins stayed thorough most of May in several places: Iowa City (TSh), St. Lucas (JSc), Ames (JD) and Des Moines. In the latter 2 locations nesting or attempted nesting occurred (see longer note by Margaret Brooke). Sparrow migration was dull this spring. Little of documentary value can thus be said about the state of the *Grasshopper Sparrow. A Baird's Sparrow was singing on May 16 at Marble Rock (PK), and the song was compared with that on the Cornell cassette. The identification is therefore apparently reliable, but if verbal documentation is required for any sparrow in Iowa, it is Baird's! Three LeConte's were seen at Cone M. on April 30 (TK et al.), and a *Henslow's on April 26 at St. Lucas and on May 27 near Volga L. (JSc). *Vesper Sparrows seem to be common only in the northwest (DB,JV); 30 at Georg Wyth S.P., Waterloo, on April 1 were considered very unusual (TSt Jr). Lark Sparrows have been hard to find around Iowa City. Clay-colored Sparrows were "common, as usual" at Sioux Center (JV), but the 8 or 9 birds seen in the Louisa-Johnson-Linn Co. area April 26 - May 12 (TK,NHa et al., FT) were better than par for this (eastern) course. A large flock (200) of Lapland Longspurs, in advanced molt, seen on March 25 in s. Johnson Co., was considered remarkable (TK, NHa). Some were seen as late as April 16 farther north (JSc). There was still a large flock (300+ birds) of Snow Buntings in Clay Co. on March 14 (DB).

Contributors. Gene Armstrong, Booneville; Jim Bednarz, Ames; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Tanya Bray, Omaha, Nebr.; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Larry Brown, Omaha, Nebr.; Woodward Brown, Des

Moines; Bob Bryant, Calamus; Eldon Bryant, Akron; Evelyn Conrad, Omaha, Nebr.; George Crossley, Dubuque; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; Nancy Davidson, Des Moines; Richard De Coster, Iowa City; Mrs. William Deeda, Omaha, Nebr.; James Dinsmore, Ames; Paul Ferleman, Long Grove; Gary Fredricks, Ames; Charles and Jane Fuller, Burlington; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Marlyn Glasson, Ames; Ruth Gochenour (RGo), Missouri Valley; Ruth Green (RGr), Omaha, Nebr.; Janet Greer, Council Bluffs (for 19); Nicholas Halmi (NHa), Iowa City; Doug Harr, Lester; Russ Hays, Waterloo; Patricia Heagy, Ames; Neal Heiser (NHe), Onawa; Iowa State University Ornithology Class (ISU), Ames; Ann Johnson, Norwalk; Ellen Johnson, Ames; Tom Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Dick Mooney (DMo), Des Moines; Dean Mosman (DMs), Elkhart; Mike Newlon, Iowa City; Tom Nigus, Ames; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Joe Schaufenbuel (JSc), St. Lucas; Charlotte Scott, Seymour; Tom Shires (TSh), Iowa City; Ross Silcock, Malvern; Tom Stone (TSt) and Tom Stone, Jr. (TSt Jr), Waterloo; Jon Stravers (JSt), Pella; Fred Thompson, Marion; Dan Towers, Ames; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Barb Wilson, Hastings; Hank and Linda Zaletel, Ames. N. S. HALMI, R. R. 6, IOWA CITY, 52240.

Field Reports Editor's note. There has been a remarkable increase in the number, length and quality of contributions. This gratifying development inevitably requires more abstracting of material submitted if the summary is not to get out of hand. But this, in turn, is time-consuming, and the deadline is inflexible. Therefore, early submission of reports is urgently requested (by August 5 for the summer). More documentation forms than ever have been received. Yet, some crucial ones were not submitted in time to be attached to the report to *Am. Birds*. I hate to see important contributions relegated, anonymously, to their "un-corroborated" category, often irretrievably. Documentation forms are most useful if prepared immediately after the sighting, when the memory of details is still fresh, and should therefore be available when the time for reporting comes around. N. H.

General Notes

Species on the I.O.U. Checklist for which neither a known specimen nor a diagnostic photograph, motion picture or sound recording exists. In compiling the official list for Iowa, the I.O.U. Checklist Committee accepted sight record considered reliable. The recent rash of accidental species that were photographed at feeders or in hand (Boreal Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Gray Jay, Varied Thrush, Hoary Redpoll, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch) emphasizes that such documentation can be often obtained, and prompted me to compile a list of species for which no tangible documentation of their occurrence in Iowa seems to exist. By the rules of some other states, these would be termed "hypothetical". The species in this category are listed below for the benefit of those who would like to compare the Iowa list minus these "hypotheticals" with the similar hard-core list of other states, and to encourage observers to obtain photographs of them when they encounter them, so their occurrence in Iowa can be supported with evidence meeting the most exacting standards. Many of the species may not be seen again in the state, but who expected a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch in northeast Iowa? Others are considered rare or casual, not even accidental, and opportunities to photograph them should not be too remote. Some have been netted or otherwise captured, and it is regrettable that they were not then photographed. (I should like to be corrected if, for any of the species listed, specimens or photographs do exist. I.B.L. would welcome good quality pictures for publications. Such as the Mute Swan



Mute Swan - February, 1974
Mississippi River near LeClaire, Iowa
Photo by Fred Lorenzen

above.) The help of Woody Brown and Pete Petersen in the compilation of the list that follows is gratefully acknowledged.

Amer. Anhinga
Wood Stork
Glossy Ibis
Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Harris' Hawk
Gyr Falcon
Black Rail
Black-necked Stilt
Mountain Plover
Red Phalarope
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Purple Sandpiper
Iceland Gull
Greater Black-backed Gull
Laughing Gull
Ivory Gull
Band-tailed Pigeon
Smooth-billed Ani
Poor-will
Lewis' Woodpecker

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Pinon Jay
Curve-billed Thrasher
Sprague's Pipit
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Great-tailed Grackle
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting
Painted Bunting
Green-tailed Towhee
Lark Bunting
Baird's Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Chestnut-collared Longspur

N. S. HALMI, R. 6, Iowa City

'Rosy, the Finch' creates stir in birdwatching -- For a tiny gray-capped tuft of rusty feathers, Rosy has turned the Rex and Sharon Ladeburg household upside down and sent a shiver of excitement through the Iowa ornithological community to boot.

Rosy, shortened by Sharon from Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, is the first of the species to be spotted in Iowa during the 20th Century. According to Woodward Brown's book "Annotated List of the Birds of Iowa," the last sighting occurred in 1883.

For the Ladeburgs the past two weeks of mid-February have been something to remember. Since the release of information to several members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union about 30 individuals have visited the Ladeburg kitchen to watch Rosy eat at a feeder on the north kitchen window.

The crush, which has filled the Ladeburg's kitchen on occasion, has disrupted Mrs. Ladeburg's household duties. For the present she has been attempting to finish her work early in the morning so she can keep accurate tabs on Rosy's hourly feeding times, part of a requirement for substantiating the find.

"The neighbors can't believe that there are that many people interested in Rosy," she laughed, adding that her eight-year-old daughter Shelli Renee keeps asking why everyone is so interested in the bird, while four-year-old Susan Raynell seems to be taking in in stride.

On a recent Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the Ladeburgs hosted groups of individuals. Saturday morning approximately 10 people crowded into Sharon's kitchen. Included in the group were three members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union: Pete Petersen of Davenport, editor of Iowa Bird Life, Dr. N. S. Halmi of Iowa City, and Woodward Brown of Des Moines. The group will help validate the sighting.



Gray crowned Rosy Finch

Photo by Richard Wilkinson, Oelwein Daily Register

As of Monday, March 20, 1978 Rosy had failed to make an appearance to the Ladeburg feeder leading Mrs. Ladeburg to speculate that the finch had begun the long trip home.

Home for the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch is in the western reaches of North America. The birds nest above the treeline as far north as the Brooks Range of Alaska.

The Ladeburg feeder first hosted Rosy on Christmas 1977. As a scrawny ragamuffin, the finch was the first visitor to the Ladeburgs newly installed kitchen window feeder. As the days passed the little bird ate its fill of sunflower seeds and millet.

Early in January Mrs. Ladeburg identified the bird with the help of a bird book. Later, on the urging of her mother-in-law, Phyllis, she wrote to Gladys Black of Pleasantville, a well-known Iowa ornithologist. "That was on a Monday. Wednesday night about 9:30 the phone rang and you could hear her voice shake," said Mrs. Ladeburg of Mrs. Black, "she said 'Do you realize you have a rare find?' So I got excited."

On March 10, 1978, two members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Joe Schaufenbuel of St. Lucus and Russell Hays of Waterloo, confirmed the sighting. During the next week, visitors began arriving to observe the celebrity at her hourly feeding. Tolerant of cameras aimed at her and large groups of people, the bird became part of the family.

"Particularly on weekends at breakfast or dinner she will come over to the edge of the tray and look in as if to say 'what are you having'", said Mrs. Ladeburg.

While observing the bird the past days the finch's personality became clearer. While tame to the presence of people, the finch seemed to be a solitary eater preferring to visit the feeder while most other birds have vacated the area. It was very punctual visiting her feeder very hour, give or take a few minutes through the morning, then again between 3 and 4 p.m. prior to roosting.

Rosy's absence March 20 raised the possibility of the bird beginning an attempt to return to its normal habitat.

"I hope that it comes back next winter with a mate," said Mrs. Ladeburg. -- RICHARD WILKINSON, Oelwein Daily News, Oelwein.

Two Visitors - On September 10, 1977, while exercising my old Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), we were visited by an immature female Richardson's Merlin (*Falco columbarius richardsoni*). She came in and made several spectacular stoops at the Redtail. She showed little fear of the Redtail or myself. I fed the Redtail and hurried home for my nets to trap her for banding. Unfortunately when I returned she was not in the area.

Later in the fall, on November 9, 1977, two days after a blizzard with high winds, an adult male Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) flew in front of the car just outside Anthon, Iowa. He then turned and stooped at the Starlings in a cattle yard. This brought him in front of the car again. I stopped to watch and he made several more passes at the birds, all unsuccessful.

From this information I would like to present a couple of my thoughts. The first is, that it seems that Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) and Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) migrate through Iowa much earlier than most people think. I feel also, many Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) migrate early. By early, I mean middle of August. Many times I've seen Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks this time of the year. This early migration is probably overlooked by many banders.

The second idea I would like to present is that in the western part of the state winter storms from the North or Northwest drive many birds of prey into our area. After these storms I've observed Prairie Falcons, Gyrfalcons, and Goshawks. In fact, during one of these storms, I watched a male Northern Goshawk, (*Accipiter gentilis*) go to roost in a deep thick grove. The next morning I captured and banded him. So during storms in the winter and early in the fall, keep your eye open. - STEVE DUECKER, Box 275, Danbury.

Is Banding "For the Birds?" A note in *IBL* XLVI:86 expressed the view that some information regarding banding returns should be forthcoming. This was interpreted by some as a request for a mere listing of the returns which, according to Mrs. DeLong, "would be potentially boring". The note referred to was a plea for some statistical information, e.g. how many Gray Catbirds, or any other selected migratory species had been banded in X years, and how many returns of these have been received. Admittedly, obtaining figures of this kind requires some digging, but so does any other research project. I would be glad to assemble such figures as may become available if the banders will cooperate. **WOODWARD H. BROWN**, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312.

Hot Line -- The much discussed Hot Line has been organized to the point of learning who wishes to participate. The idea of the Hot Line is to document unusual records and permit birders to see new birds. The input will come from anyone: feeder watchers, occasional birders, and I. O. U. members. They will be urged to contact either Nick Halmi or Mike Newlon in Iowa City, Woodward Brown or Dick Mooney in Des Moines or Gladys Black in Pleasantville. This could lead to some collect phone calls which all involved would help defray. Once an observation was felt valid by one of the above people it would be put on the Hot Line and spread to those who participate by phone. If interested notify the editor and include your phone number. ed.

Revised I. O. U. Field Checklist -- If you are one of many who are confused by the frequent changes in common names the new I. O. U. field checklist will help you learn the A. B. A. names used in *Iowa Bird Life*. The cards are the usual 6' x 3½" single fold. The cost has been reduced due to a larger printing and are 5 cents each, 6 for 25 cents and 100 for \$3.50. For small orders send a stamped self-addressed envelope, for 100 send \$1.00 for postage and handling. The Common Screech Owl was inadvertently left off in the rush to have the lists printed by the May convention. A rubber stamp has been secured to replace the missing owl. Dr. Nick Halmi, Chairman of the Checklist Committee and Field Reports editor made the species selection in consultation with the editor. ed.

Obituary

Mrs. Ida E. Wolden

Funeral services for Mrs. Ida E. Wolden, 81, Estherville, were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Estherville Lutheran Church with the Rev. Stan Eyberg and the Rev. Obert Rust officiating. Interment was in the Riverside Cemetery, Wallingford. She died Friday night, Feb. 3, at Rosewood Manor Nursing Home.

Born Sept. 7, 1896 at Grinnell, she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Iver Iverson. She was educated in the rural Grinnell schools, graduating from high school there. She continued her education at the college in Grinnell and then at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. On Aug. 13, 1938 she married B. O. Wolden at Clear Lake. She taught school at Grinnell, Toledo and Mason City, at both the high school and junior college levels.

She was a member of the Estherville Lutheran Church, the Iowa Academy of Science, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and was active in the ELCW.

Her survivors include one son, Gerhard Wolden, Minneapolis, Minn.; one daughter, Mrs. James (Berniece) Nelson, Foulso, Wash.; two grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Henry (Esther) Engen, Minneapolis, Minn.; one niece; and one cousin.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband and one sister.

Book Reviews

A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela -- R. M. de Schauensee and W. H. Phelps, Jr. -- Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J. -- 424 p., 40 color and 13 black-and-white plates, many line drawings, one map -- 1978 -- \$50.00, paperbound -- \$19.95.

The field study of South American birds takes another giant stride with the publication of the long awaited Venezuelan guide. The forty color plates, primarily the work of Guy Tudor with help from H. Wayne Trimm, John Gwynne and Kathleen D. Phelps, will be extremely useful to field students not only in Venezuela but elsewhere in northern South America. They illustrate over 900 species which forces crowding but the result is still excellent and much needed. Nearly half of the remaining 400 species are illustrated in black-and-white. Many of those not illustrated are North American migrants. The page opposite the illustrations contains the page of text reference and a brief statement of diagnostic field characteristics.

The text contains a description of physical characteristics, behavior, habitat, range and voice information if known. Distribution information includes neighboring territory which is part of the range of the species. The introduction covers the geography, altitudinal zones and river systems. An appendix identifies the subspecies illustrated and indices for English, Spanish and Latin names are provided. A brief bibliography lists chiefly books with supplementary color illustrations helpful in the field. Everything considered it is an indispensable book for field work in northern South America. The paperback edition is being offered at a considerably reduced price and would seem the best buy for the non-professional. ed.

The Birds of the Ligonier Valley -- Robert C. Leberman -- Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburg -- 67 p., 6 color plates, eight black-and-white photographs, one map and many line drawings -- 1976 -- paperbound, \$5.00.

This annotated list of the bird life found in this hundred square mile area in southwest Pennsylvania is based to a large extent on the author's extensive banding program. The total for the valley is 254 species. The six fine color plates are tipped in and they depict their subjects nearly life-sized. The line drawings add to the overall appearance of the book. It is a fine addition to the ever growing number of regional lists. ed.

A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas -- James A. Lane -- L. and P. Press, Box 21604, Denver, Colorado 80221 -- 111 p., many maps and black-and-white photographs -- 1978 -- paperbound, \$4.50.

Jim Lane has now published the third revision of this popular guide. You are again referred to I.B.L. Vol. 43 p. 81 as well as Vol. 47 p. 152-153 for a description of Lane's format. This book follows the river upstream from Brownsville to El Paso. The only section this reviewer has birded recently is the El Paso area and this section is very well done. The seasonal bargraph lists status for five specific locations and the Edwards Plateau and Guadalupe Mts. As in the case with other Lane books this one is indispensable for serious birders planning a visit to this area. ed.

Minsmere, Portrait of a Bird Reserve -- Herbert Axell and Eric Hosking -- Hutchinson & Co., London -- 256 p., 49 color photographs, many black-and-white photographs, line drawings and maps -- 1977 -- \$17.50.

Minsmere is a 1500 acre bird refuge or reserve on the east coast of England. A wintering area for waterfowl and breeding area for rare shorebirds, gulls and terns it is an outstanding ornithological area. This book details the history of the area back to nearly a thousand years ago; describes fully the various habitats and

highlights the seasonal ornithological happenings. Several of the more elusive or unusual birds are featured in detailed accounts. An annotated checklist of all species is included. The reserve is leased by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The lease will expire in six years and the R. S. P. B. is attempting to raise half a million dollars to purchase the area and insure its permanent security. ed.

Birds of the Yosemite Sierra -- David Gaines -- Cal Syl Press, 1494 Mac Arthur Blvd., Oakland, California 94602 -- 153 p., many maps, line drawings and migration charts -- 1977 -- paperbound \$5.00 + .75 postage.

Following a brief description of the area and its habitats the author presents a series of species accounts of the birds of Yosemite National Park and adjacent area. For the more common and regular birds a bar graph is included separating east and west slope status and giving elevation and habitat. The text provides early and late dates and a description of habits aimed at assisting the birder. This book certainly updates all previous and is geared more to the knowledgeable birder than its predecessors. ed.

The Birds of the Falklands Islands -- Robin W. Woods -- Anthony Nelson, Oswestry, Shropshire, U. K., distributed in the U.S. by Buteo Books, P.O. Box 481, Vermillion, S. D. -- 204 p., many color and black-and-white photographs, several tables, nine drawings and maps -- 1975 -- \$22.50.

In a recent issue of *I.B.L.*, we reviewed another book about the Falklands, **The Bird Man** by Ian Strange. While providing interesting reading it did not detail all species or provide a good reference source. This volume does both nicely. It includes a check list with reference to more detailed accounts, key to families, bibliography and primarily a field guide section. This section contains many photographs and includes Argentine and Chilian local names, complete description for all plumages, voice, food, habitat, status, breeding date, and distribution abroad. If one were planning a trip to the Falklands this would be the book to take. ed.

Fifty Common Birds of Oklahoma and the Southern Great Plains -- George M. Sutton -- University of Oklahoma Press, Norman -- 113 p., 50 color plates -- 1977 -- \$7.95.

This little book provides a good introduction to the more common birds of the Southern Great Plains region. The selection is good and well balanced. The text tells a bit of the life history of the bird in a very interesting manner. The book includes a complete list of the birds of Oklahoma. Some of the plates appeared elsewhere previously but they are well worth reprinting. It is a charming book for the general reader. ed.

The California Quail -- A. Starker Leopold -- University of California Press, Berkeley -- 281 p., one color plate, many black-and-white photographs, line drawings, charts, maps and tables -- 1977 -- \$14.95.

This widely distributed western game bird has suffered from over-hunting in the past. Now becoming more common it is of interest to birders, land owners and sportsmen as well as wildlife biologists. The book is well illustrated and covers the historic background, natural history and management of the bird in a very complete manner. ed.

Grzimek's Encyclopedia of Evolution -- h. e. Bernhard Grzimek's Editor-in-chief -- Von Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York -- 559 p., many color plates and line drawings -- 1976 -- \$39.50.

This is the final volume of the three supplements to Grzimek's *Animal Life Encyclopedia* series. We have recently reviewed the other supplementary volumes dealing with Ecology and Ethology as well as the *Animal Life* volumes dealing with birds. The volume is the result of the work of over 200 leading scientists from throughout the world. Although many sections could be useful to ornithologists the

chapter titled "Conquest of the air" is of primary interest. As with the previous items in this series this is a must for college and large public libraries. ed.

Cruikshank's Photographs of Birds of America -- Allan D. Cruikshank -- Dover Publications, New York -- 182 p., 177 black-and-white photographs -- 1977 -- paperbound \$6.00.

When many of these photographs first appeared over thirty years ago in *Wings in the Wilderness* they were widely acclaimed. This revision features a larger page size and includes seventy-five new photographs while maintaining the same price. The original edition was in hard cover and it contained some photographs which are omitted in the new edition as is the photographic data. The photographs include captions which provide information on the birds shown and a new preface is added. The reproduction is of better quality than my copy of the original edition. Although entirely black-and-white, it represents a good cross-section of Cruikshank's work. ed.

Wild Geese -- M. A. Ogilvie -- Buteo Books, Box 481, Vermillion, S. D. (they also have all Poyser books reviewed in I.B.L.) -- 350 p., 16 color plates, many line drawings and maps -- 1978 -- \$25.00 (22.50 through 1978).

The list of monographs grows with a very well done contribution on the geese of the world. The book is quite complete and covers the biology, identification, migration, plumages and conservation of geese. The section on distribution and status is species by species and especially detailed. The bibliography is done chapter by chapter for the maximum utility. The author is a research scientist at the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, England. As with the pheasant book, this is a must monograph. ed.

Bird Sounds and Their Meaning -- Rosemary Jellis -- B.B. C. Publications, 35 Mayrlebone High St., London. U. K. -- 256 p., many sonograms, charts and line drawings -- 1977 -- \$10.00, optional record, \$6.00.

Another general field in the realm of bird study that has benefited greatly from the development of complex equipment is the study of bird sounds. This book, based on 25 years of research, explains without presupposing any special knowledge this interesting subject. Included in the coverage are chapters dealing with listening to birds, the communication system, the sounds birds make, songs of various types, moods and events which influence song, song learning, dialects, individual recognition, avian imitators, and the research methods and equipment. The record allows the reader to hear the examples figured in the sonograms and discussed in the text. The book is quite useful without the recording and most of the examples deal with European birds. ed.

The Pheasants of the World -- Jean Delacour -- Saiga Publishing Co., Ltd., Royal Parade, Hindhead, Surrey, England -- available from Buteo Books, Box 481 Vermillion, S. D. -- 395 p., 17 color and 16 black-and-white plates, 21 maps and diagrams -- 1977 -- \$45.00.

Delacour's classic work on pheasants is, after many years, again in print. This revised second edition presents the detailed descriptions, discussions of habitats in the wild and captivity and fine plates of the 1951 edition. A section of complementary notes has been added presenting data from research through 1977 which updates the first edition accounts. One new color plate has also been added. The introductory sections include a systematic list, a history of the subfamily, a discussion of systematics, general life habit data, and some comments on managing the birds in confinement. A list of the literature on pheasants rounds out the text. The book is very well printed and bound. The price, while high, is in line with the present market, even on the reasonable side. If one wishes to keep up with the monographs it is a must. ed.